## ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION MAKES IT EASIER TO APPLY FOR MEDICAID AND CHP+

Applicants for public health insurance will no longer need to provide paper documentation.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2011

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DENVER – August 29, 2011 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that new electronic verification systems are in place to make it easier and less expensive for Coloradans to apply for public health insurance. The changes will eliminate the need for some applicants to supply paper documentation to verify income, citizenship and identity.

"The changes going into effect today will reduce the paperwork and cost burden on Coloradans applying for Medicaid and CHP+," states Suzanne Brennan, Medicaid director. "Electronically verifying citizenship, identity and income will also decrease the administrative burden on our county and community partners."

The new electronic interfaces include:

- **Income Verification** The new Income Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) allows income to be electronically verified by using existing data collected from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.
- Citizenship & Identity Verification The changes will allow identity and citizenship to be verified electronically through a direct connection with the Social Security Administration.

This change reduces the burden of providing birth certificates or other paper documentation to prove U.S. citizenship and identity. Costs to obtain copies of birth certificates alone for a Colorado family of four can be more than \$70.00.

• **Automatic Reenrollment** – Eligible Coloradans who have had no change in their income or number of household members will be automatically re-enrolled in Medicaid without submitting renewal paperwork.

Some applicants may still need to provide paper documentation if there are discrepancies in information or the omission of a social security number on the application.

<u>Medicaid</u> is public health insurance for low-income families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. Eligibility is based on income and family size. The program is funded jointly by a federal-state partnership and is administered by the Department.

Child Health Plan *Plus*, or <u>CHP+</u>, is low-cost health and dental insurance for Colorado children and pregnant women. It's for families that make too much money to be eligible for Medicaid but not enough to afford private insurance.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.

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